

REMARKS

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 8-15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,123,077 to *Endo et al.* (“*Endo*”). Applicant respectfully traverses, noting that *Endo* does not disclose every element of the claims as amended. More specifically, *Endo* does not disclose the concave light reflecting surfaces of claims 1 and 12, nor does *Endo* disclose luminance-compensating patterns spaced apart from each other.

As admitted by Examiner, plate 4D of *Endo* is a light reflecting surface (Advisory Action, page 2). However, plate 4D is a flat, planar plate (e.g., FIG. 1). Accordingly, claims 1 and 12 are each patentable over *Endo* for at least the reason that they recite that “the light reflecting surface of the light guide plate is concave.”

Additionally, *Endo* discloses rough surfaces 4a, 4d that are adjacent to each other (e.g., FIG. 1). Claims 1 and 12 are thus each patentable over *Endo* for at least the additional reason that they recite “luminance-compensating patterns” that “are spaced apart from each other.”

Claims 2-3, 8-11, and 13-15 depend either from claim 1 or claim 12 and are thus also patentable over *Endo* for at least these same reasons.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Endo* in view of European Patent Publication No. EP 0663600 to *Koike et al.* (“*Koike*”). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Endo* and *Koike* in view of European Patent Publication No. EP 0607453 to *Funamoto et al.* (“*Funamoto*”). Applicant respectfully traverses noting that, even in combination, these references do not disclose every element of Applicant’s claims. More specifically, none of these references discloses the concave light reflecting surface of claim 1 from which claims 4-7 depend. Additionally, none of these references discloses luminance-compensating patterns spaced apart from each other.

As above, *Endo* does not disclose a concave light reflecting surface. Neither *Koike* nor *Funamoto* cures the deficiency of *Endo*. *Koike* discloses a light guide 1 whose light reflecting

surface is flat (e.g., FIG. 8).¹ *Funamoto* at most discloses a polarizer 29 whose thickness varies yet still has straight, flat sides 29a, 29b (e.g., FIG. 12b). Accordingly, no concave surfaces are disclosed. Accordingly, claims 4-7 are each patentable over *Endo*, *Koike*, and *Funamoto* for at least the reason that claim 1, from which claims 4-7 depend, recites that “the light reflecting surface of the light guide plate is concave.”

Additionally, none of these references discloses a light-exiting surface with luminance-compensating patterns spaced apart from each other. As above, *Endo* at most discloses adjacent luminance-compensating patterns. Neither *Koike* nor *Funamoto* cures the deficiency of *Endo*, as neither discloses luminance-compensating patterns on a light-exiting surface. Claims 4-7 are thus each patentable over *Endo*, *Koike*, and *Funamoto* for at least the additional reason that claim 1, from which claims 4-7 depend, recites recite “a light exiting surface having a plurality of luminance-compensating patterns” that “are spaced apart from each other.”

¹ Examiner also appears to be under the impression that Applicant relied on FIG. 8 of *Endo* (Final Office Action, page 7, Responses to Arguments). However, Applicant points out that he has relied on FIG. 8 of *Koike*, not FIG. 8 of *Endo*.

Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below in order to speed the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2257.

Respectfully submitted,

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